

# **Pandemic Planning Update VIII**

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# A Message from Michigan Department of Community Health

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The World Health Organization (WHO) pandemic influenza alert phase remains at a 3: *No or very limited human-to-human transmission*. There are no new clusters of human cases. The threat from avian influenza A (H5N1) of becoming a pandemic influenza is possible as the virus continues to circulate internationally in poultry, wild birds and humans.

<b>Inter – pandemic phase</b> New virus in animals, no human cases	Low risk of human cases	1
	Higher risk of human cases	2
<b>Pandemic Alert</b> New virus causes human cases	No or very limited human-to-human transmission	3
	Evidence of increased human-to-human transmission	4
	Evidence of significant human-to-human transmission	5
<b>Pandemic</b>	Efficient and sustained human-to-human transmission	6

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/phase/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html)

Since March, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Egypt continued to report human cases of H5N1 avian influenza. In addition, Bangladesh reported its first human cases of H5N1 from January 2008. Uncertainty remains regarding whether highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1) strain will mutate into the next pandemic strain. It is also unknown when a pandemic may occur. Research continues on the virus, development of a vaccine and expediting the manufacturing of influenza vaccines.

On April 3, WHO issued a final report concerning a cluster of human H5N1 avian influenza cases in November 2007 from Pakistan. WHO concluded that limited human-to-human transmission of this virus likely occurred between four family members, in a manner similar to previously described clusters. Importantly, there was no evidence of secondary transmission or spread to the community. For the entire report, visit [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008\\_04\\_03/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_04_03/en/index.html).

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reports into the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS). Weekly reports on influenza are reported in the *MI-FluFocus* report and can be found at [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

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## MDCH Preparedness Activities February 2008 to May 2008

### Collaboration and Planning

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- The Michigan Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Committee (PICC), consisting of representatives from state agencies, is working on a coordinated response to a potential pandemic influenza outbreak. The group has developed the **PICC Annual Report 2006-2007** that was presented by the MDCH Director, Janet Olszewski to the Governor and cabinet members on February 5, 2008. This report contains a list of challenges and recommendations that have been identified by the subcommittees and working groups regarding pandemic influenza preparedness issues at the State level. A copy of this report has been forwarded to every Local Health Officer in the state. The PICC and its sub-committees will continue to meet in 2007-2008.
- The PICC Steering Group asked each state agency to submit **Emergency Action Guidelines** (EAGs) for pandemic influenza. These EAGs are dependent on the World Health Organization (WHO) pandemic influenza alert phases, and outline the agency's operational activities for each WHO Phase. The EAGs will be incorporated into the Michigan Emergency Management Plan in 2008.
- MDCH continues to participate in **Regional State Partners teleconference calls** to pandemic coordinators from surrounding states and Ontario, Canada. These quarterly meetings allow for sharing of planning and preparedness ideas across state and/or international borders.
- MDCH is developing four 10 to 20 minute **video vignettes** on influenza that will be available on the [michigan.gov/flu](http://michigan.gov/flu) website in late March. The four videos cover; Influenza 101, Seasonal Influenza, Avian Influenza, and Pandemic Influenza.
- MDCH, MI-OSHA and Office of the State Employer are developing guidance for **pandemic influenza protection in the state workplace**. The group has been working on this for the past year and hopes to have a product for use by state employees and their human resource departments in early 2008.